

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9680

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNGA

SUBJ: UNGA--LEGAL COMMITTEE--ELECTION OF BUREAU

1. IMPASSE OVER COMPOSITION OF BUREAU ENDED SEPTEMBER 27 WITH HOTLY CONTESTED VOTE. THREE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR TWO VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS WERE ZOTIADES (GREECE), SHITTA BEY (NIGERIA), AND SAHNOV (YUGOSLAVIA). BOTH WEO GROUP, SUPPORTING ZOTIADES, AND EE GROUP, SUPPORTING SAHOVIC, THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED A VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP. EE GROUP HAD BEEN LAST TO SUBMIT NAME. AF GROUP, ALSO RUNNING CANDIDATE FOR RAPPORTEUR, HAD BEEN SECOND. DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS SINCE BEGINNING OF GA TO WORK OUT PROBLEM WITH COMPROMISE SOLUTION, WHICH MIGHT ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN OTHER MAIN COMMITTEES IN SELECTING BUREAU, EACH CANDIDATE AND GROUP STUCK TO ITS GUNS AND INSISTED ON VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP TO WHICH IT BELIEVED ITSELF ENTPTLED.

2. SECRET BALLOT WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 27. 112 BALLOTS WERE CAST. RESULTS AS FOLLOWS: SHITTA BEY-- 86; SAHOVPC--69; ZOTIADES--47.

3. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN VOTING BECAUSE OF ARTILE 19 ON UN CHARTER.

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4. DJAPU (CAR), ONLY CANDIDATE FOR RAPPORTEUR, ELECTED

WITHOUT VOTE.

5. AFTER ELECTION OF BUREAU, 6TH COMMITTEE CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF ILC REPORT, HEARING STATEMENTS FROM ZAIRE, GDR, AND FINLAND. WITH ABOUT 45 SPEAKERS ON LIST TO SPEAK ON ILC REPORT, SPEAKERS' LIST WAS CLOSED SEPTEMBER 27, AFTER ATTEMPT BY GABON TO KEEP LIST OPEN LONGER EASILY REBUFFED BY CHAIRMAN GONZALES-GALVEZ. NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 28, WITH NINE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO ALLOW RAPID PROGRESS THROUGH ILC ITEM. COMMITTEE MAY THUS BE IN POSITION TO TURN TO ITEM OF CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS ABOUT OCTOBER 3.

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